



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FRANK FRASSETTO, STATE DIRECTOR

- - - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - - -

STEVENS POINT, APRIL 22, 2003 - - - - US Department of Agriculture Rural Development representatives joined members of the Johnsborg Sanitary District and local leaders for a special Earth Day event today at the site of construction of a new waste treatment facility the District has planned.

USDA Rural Development awarded the Johnsborg Sanitary District over \$2 million dollars in low interest loans and a \$500,000 grant to construct a new wastewater collection system with regional treatment by the City of Fond Du Lac. Funds will be used to install pressure and gravity sewer service mains, force main and gravity discharge to transfer the wastewater to the Fond Du Lac collection system. The sanitary district area has a long history of documented problems with on-site system including surface discharge, direct discharge to the south branch of the Manitowoc River and portable water well contamination. This project will affect 104 users.

In recognition of the 33rd Anniversary of Earth Day, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the selection of 42 rural water and wastewater community infrastructure projects in 29 states to receive investment funding totaling over \$104 million. The fund assists rural communities address health and environmental issues and promotes business development. This year's Earth Day theme "Action for a Healthy Environment" encourages Americans to heed President Bush's call to be good stewards of the land and life around us.

Stan Gruszynski, Public Affairs Manager for Rural Development said the Johnsborg project was selected for Earth Day recognition because of the impact it will have towards a cleaner environment when the project is completed.

"This area is part of the Lake Michigan watershed. The initiative of the Johnsborg Sanitary District is an important contribution to a cleaner environment for generations to come," Gruszynski said.

USDA Rural Development mission is to deliver programs in a way the will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development is Rural America's Venture Capitalist. Providing equity, liquidity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Image 1 – Presentation



Image 2 – Presentation



Image 3 – Rural Development Appreciation Poster



Image 4 – Rural Development Appreciation Poster



Image 4 – Rural Development Appreciation Poster

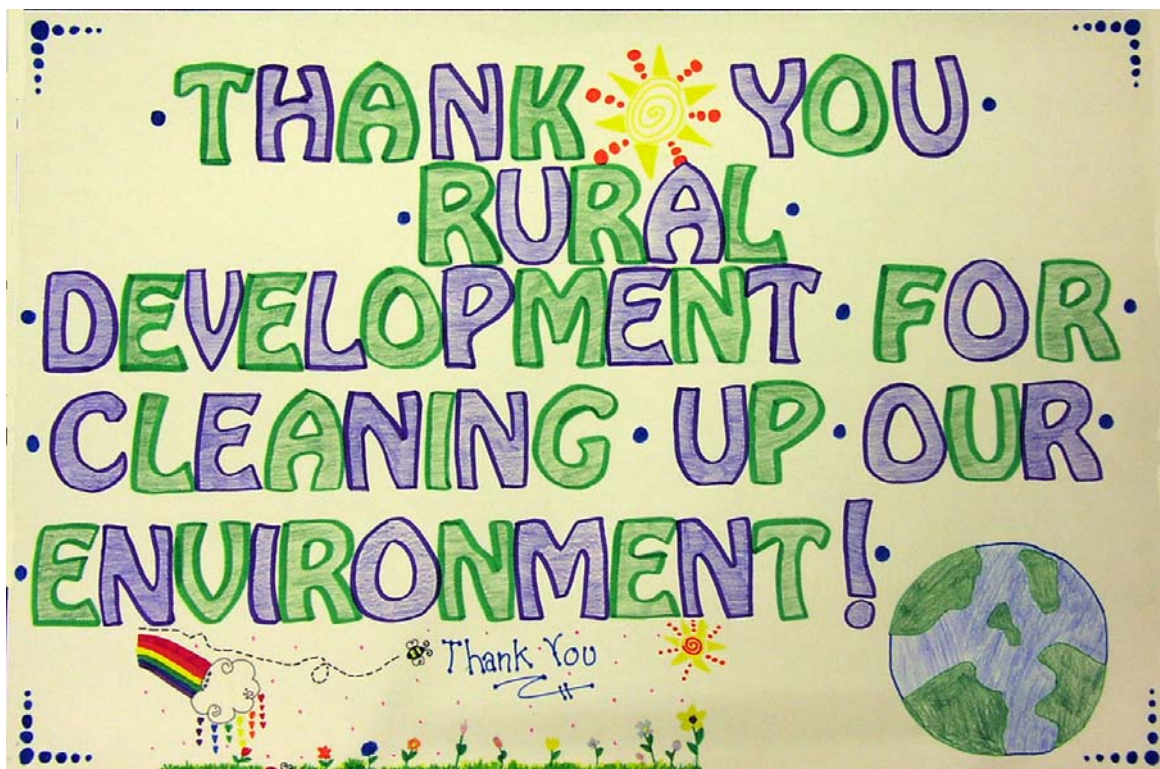


Image 5 – Rural Development Appreciation Poster

